

your Majesty's favourable reception of this our humble petition and memorial, as well on behalf of ourselves and our constituents, the good people of this island, as on behalf of all your Majesty's subjects, the colonists of America; but especially those who labour at present under the heavy weight of your Majesty's displeasure, for whom we entreat to be admitted as humble suitors; that we may not at so important a crisis, be wanting to contribute our sincere and well meant, however small endeavours, to heal those disorders, which may otherwise terminate in the destruction of the empire.

That as we conceive it necessary for this purpose to enter into the different claims of Great-Britain and her colonies, we beg leave to place it in the royal mind as the first established principle of the constitution, that the people of England have a right to partake, and do partake, of the legislation of their country, and that no laws can affect them, but such as receive their assent, given by themselves, or their representatives; and it follows therefore, that no one part of your Majesty's English subjects either can, or ever could, legislate for any other part.

That the settlers of the first colonies, but especially those of the older colonies of North-America, as well as the conquerors of this island, were a part of the English people, in every respect equal to them, and possessed of every right and privilege at the time of their emigration, which the people of England were possessed of, and incontestably so that great right of consenting to the laws which should bind them in all cases whatsoever; and who, emigrating at first in small numbers, when they might have been oppressed, such rights and privileges were constantly guaranteed by the crown, to the emigrants and conquerors, to be held and enjoyed by them in the places to which they emigrated; and were confirmed by many repeated solemn engagements, made public by proclamation, under the faith of which they did actually emigrate and conquer: That therefore the people of England had no rights, power, or privilege, to give to the emigrants; as there were, at the time of their emigration, possessed of all such rights equally with themselves.

That the peers of England were possessed of very eminent and distinguished privileges in their own right, as a branch of legislation a court of justice in the dernier resort, for all appeals from the people, and in the first instance, for all causes instituted by the representatives of the people; but that it does not appear that they ever considered themselves as acting in such capacities for the colonies, the peers having never, to this day, heard or determined the causes of the colonists in appeal, in which it ever was, and is, their duty to serve the subjects within the realm.

That from what has been said, it appears that the emigrants could receive nothing from either the peers or the people; the former being unable to communicate their privileges, and the latter on no more than an equal footing with themselves; but that with the king it was far otherwise; the royal prerogative, as now annexed to and belonging to the crown, being totally independent of the people, who cannot invade, add to, or diminish it, nor restrain or invalidate those legal grants which the prerogative hath a just right to give, and hath very liberally given, for the encouragement of colonization; to some colonies it granted almost all the royal powers of government, which they hold and enjoy at this day; but to none of them did it grant less than to the first conquerors of this island, in whose favour it is declared, by a royal proclamation, "That they shall have the same privileges, to all intents and purposes, as the free born subjects of England."

That to use the name, or authority of the people of the parent state, to take away, or render ineffectual, the legal grants of the crown to the colonists, is delusive, and destroys that confidence which the people have ever had and ought to have of the most solemn royal grants in their favour, and renders unstable and insecure, those very rights and privileges which prompted their emigration.

That our colonists and your petitioners having the most implicit confidence in the royal faith, pledged to them in the most solemn manner by your predecessors, rested satisfied with their different portions of the royal grants, and having been bred from their infancy to venerate the name of parliament, a word still dear to the heart of every Briton, and considered as the palladium of liberty, and the great source from whence their own is derived, received the several acts of parliament of England, and Great-Britain, for the regulation of the trade of the colonies, as the salutary precautions of a prudent father for the prosperity of a wide extended family; and that in this light we received them, without a thought of questioning the right, the whole tenor of our conduct will demonstrate, for above 100 years.

That though we received these regulations of trade from our fellow subjects of England, and Great-Britain, so advantageous to us as colonists, as Englishmen, and Britons, we did not thereby confer on them a power of legislating for us, far less that of defraying us and our children, by divesting us of all rights and property.

That with reluctance we have been drawn from the prosecution of our internal affairs, to behold with amazement, a plan almost carried into execution, for enslaving the colonies, founded, as we conceive, on a claim of parliament to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever.

Your humble petitioners have for several years, with deep and silent sorrow, lamented this unrestrained exercise of legislative power; still hoping, from the interposition of their sovereign, to avert that last and greatest of calamities, that of being reduced to an abject state of slavery, by having an arbitrary government established in the colonies, for the very attempting of which, a minister of your predecessor was impeached by a house of commons.

With like sorrow do we view the popish religion established by law, which by us was only to be tolerated.

That the most essential rights of the colonies have been invaded, and their property given and granted to your Majesty, by men not entitled to such a power.

That the murder of the colonists hath been encouraged by another, by disallowing and annulling their trials by jury, and by giving; and that fleets and armies have been sent to enforce those dreadful laws.

We therefore, with extreme, most humbly beg leave to petition, to declare to your Majesty, that in Great-Britain, and

consequently their representatives, the house of commons, have not a right, as we trust we have shown, to legislate for the colonies; and that your petitioners and the colonists are not, nor ought to be, bound by any other laws, than such as they have themselves assented to, and are not disallowed by your Majesty.

Your petitioners do therefore make this claim and demand from their sovereign, as guaranteed of their just rights, on the faith and confidence of which they have settled, and continue to reside in these distant parts of the empire, that no laws shall be made and attempted to be forced upon them, injurious to their rights as colonists, Englishmen, or Britons.

That your petitioners, fully sensible of the great advantages that have arisen from the regulations of trade in general, prior to the year 1760, as well to Great-Britain and her colonies as to your petitioners in particular, and being anxiously desirous of encircling the good effects of these laws, as well as to remove an obstacle which is new in our government, and could not have existed on the principles of our constitution, as it hath arisen from colonization, we do declare for ourselves and the good people of this island, that we freely consent to the operation of such acts of the British parliament as are limited to the regulation of our external commerce only, and the sole object of which is the mutual advantage of Great-Britain and her colonies.

We, your petitioners, do therefore beseech your Majesty, that you will be pleased, as the common parent of your subjects, to become a mediator between your European and American subjects, and to consider the latter, however far removed from your royal presence, as equally entitled to your protection and the benefits of the English constitution, the deprivation of which must dissolve that dependence on the parent state, which it is our glory to acknowledge, whilst enjoying those rights under her protection; but should this bond of union be ever destroyed, and the colonists reduced to consider themselves as tributaries to Britain, they must cease to venerate her as an affectionate parent.

We beseech your Majesty to believe, that it is our earnest prayer to Almighty Providence, to preserve your Majesty in all happiness, prosperity and honour, and that there never may be wanting one of your illustrious line, to transmit the blessings of our excellent constitution to the latest posterity, and to reign in the hearts of a loyal, grateful and affectionate people.

#### PHILADELPHIA.

Extract of a letter from New-York, Feb. 17. 1775.

"Yesterday arrived the ship Beulah, Capt. Buffel, in nine weeks, from London; she is come to at the Watering Place. Mr. Robert Murray, the owner, has summoned all those that have goods on board, to meet him this evening to confer together, I suppose, about sending her away. We have also arrived a schooner from the Mole, and a sloop from Jamaica, both strangers; the latter has four casks of coffee on board; the consignee says, let it be thrown overboard, and the master can then declare it was to save the vessel and cargo. In one of these vessels is come a manuscript copy of the assembly's petition of that island to his Majesty. Their sentiments in general coincide with what the congress declare in theirs, and give for reason that they have not opposed the late acts, because they were too insignificant to contend with Great-Britain only. This is what I am told, not having seen the petition."

We hear that it was determined on Friday night last, at a meeting of the owners of goods on board the Beulah arrived at New-York, that she should return to London with all her goods, agreeable to the resolves of the congress, and that she should depart in two days after the above-mentioned meeting.

#### ANNAPOLIS.

Prince George's county, Feb. 13. 1775. THIS day (agreeable to notice given) was sold by public vendue, at Piscataway, under the direction of the committee, &c. two packages of goods, which Mr. Thomas Clagett had previously informed the committee of his having received from his constituents, Messrs. Ostrald, Dennison, and company, of Glasgow, by the ship Houston, Capt. Robert McClish, who arrived in this province in December last; viz.

One box Irish lincens.	Cost and charges	sterling.
One box hats.	Cost and charges	£. 31 11
		15 7

Sold for 47 18.

For Boston 2

JOSIAS BRALL, chairman.

N. B. The sale of these goods, at this time, was occasioned by the opinion of the committee to defer the same until the goods were landed at Piscataway. Mr. Clagett having given early notice of their arrival in the province, and of his cheerfully submitting them to be sold agreeable to the association of the continental congress.

#### TO THE PRINTERS.

Baltimore, Feb. 23. 1775. CAPT. G. requests the favour of the *Essex* (published in No. 1535) that he will in future decline making use of his name in any queries that have no tendency to promote unanimity, peace and harmony, among the friends of America.

#### TO THE PRINTERS,

I should have thought it as little my business, as I am sure, it is my inclination, to have interfered in the dispute between the *American* and the *Colonist*, had not the former made use of some expressions, which have since been employed to abuse, and to injure me. It is my ill fortune to be one of the few, who cannot write with a false conscience, subscribe to any of the schemes enumerated by the *American*: for which, acting as I do, on principle, and not without consideration, I cannot but think it hard that, with the *American's* will, I should be held up as an object of contempt. I know but of one court on earth, that presumes to judge men on matters of conscience; and for the honour of humanity, I trust, there never will be another.

A subscription, for the relief, as was said of the people of Boston, was, I think first set on foot by our provincial committee, or convention, (for, I know not well which to call it;) and other subscriptions it soon had since been advised by the congress. Now, does liberty to be advised, or not, as our own judgment may, I grant, be folly or obstinacy; but, it would be something worse, to do a thing contrary to my judgment, and my conscience, only because I had been so advised. I and those who think with me, have just as much right to make resolves, and give advice to others, as they have to resolve for, and advise us. And, if I am thoroughly persuaded, that the measures they have advised, are wrong, and ruinous, I beg leave to appeal to the friends of this American (for, I think God, I am not quite silly enough to appeal to the American himself) if it is not my duty to advise my countrymen to beware how they adopt them? But, I am not to take upon him the mighty privilege of advising, to advise now happily referred to committees, conventions, and congresses. Were I, however, so far to forget myself as to venture on so rash a step, I think I should not be afraid to appeal to the issue of this dispute with our parent state, to determine whose advice was best.

It is, God knows, full easy to call a man an enemy to the liberties of America; but a deal is to be done ere he can be proved to be such. And, surely, I need not say, it is wrong to give any man so foul a name, without indubitable proofs of his having first deserved it. If I know, my own heart, I am, in the truest sense of the word, a friend to America. I have some reason to be so. Nor, unless, indeed, I am quite to learn what is my duty: can I, in my own judgment, in any thing better manifest my friendship for her, than, as far as my little influence extends, by checking a spirit of confusion and misrule, which, if not checked, will, I fear, soon work her inevitable ruin; I add, that, as her friend, I cannot but be an enemy to many of the measures, advised by this tyrannical American, and those like him. And I have just as much right to proclaim him inimical to American freedom, as he has to call me so: and if I do not overrate my own abilities, I am not less able to prove him so.

In times like these, it may for ought I know, be prudent: because I suppose, it is safe to swim with the stream. Let it, however, be remembered, that, if this be wise, then were Hampden, Sidney, and Russell most unwise. In good truth, at the best it is but an easy kind of virtue, and such as any man may attain. But to dare to be singular in a good cause, and though but a willow in strength, to act the part of the oak, and scorn to bend to the prevailing torrent, if it be rash, and indiscreet, is, however, honest, and truly. And I am bold to say, in any manner to persecute such a man, is tyranny in the extreme. The *American* says, he acts against the sense and interest of the community: my reply still is, this remains to be proved. The sense and interest of the community are very different things in the opinions of different men: it is for the legislature alone, authoritatively to say, what they are. Till that be done, to talk of a man's acting against his duty, is mere random declamation: it is to talk with as little consequence, as this American does.

Speaking of these subscriptions, the *American* says, "there is no obligation to pay, but a sense of duty, and no other mode to induce a compliance, but shame and infamy." It might, perhaps, be deemed *paltry* to question this writer about precision of expressions: his reply is ready, *non sene* as it is, it is patriotic; and since that can excuse him for greater offences, than those against grammar only, let it pass. But, whatever may come of the phraseology, I would to God, the assertion were true! Whether it be so or not, let the following narrative of a recent fact determine.

Amongst others, a planter in \* \* \* county was applied to, to subscribe for arms and ammunition, and a muster. He refused both: alleging only, in his justification, his oath of allegiance. In vain was he plied with the threats of *shame and infamy*. "Never," by him that made me (pardon him the oath) "never," said he, "will I pay a penny, or draw a trigger against my king." *Shame and infamy* however soon overtook him: but in a form in which he had little expected them. Orders were given: "I beg pardon, perhaps, I should have said *advice* was given" that the friends of liberty and America should break off all commercial intercourse with him, as, if I mistake not, had been recommended by the grand continental congress: and their satellites the county committees: and they did so. Not a mill would grind for him: not a blacksmith point his plough: nor a store sell him a yard of brown linen: and so, of the rest. "Your *shame*, and your *infamy*," properly so called, I could not say the poor man: "well have borne; for my heart would have told me, I did not deserve them: but, forgive me, ye staunch champions for truth and real liberty, I find I am not man enough to see my wife and my little ones perishing around me for want of bread." He signed the paper.

On this story, which is undoubtedly authentic, I have no other comment to make, than that which I had from my friend, to whom I owe the relation: that, if this be liberty, and this America: my motto shall no longer be *libertas et natale solum*.

I am, &c. &c.

THOMAS TRUMAN.

Indian Fields, county, 10 Feb. 1775.

#### CUSTOM-HOUSE. ENTERED.

Big Escape, Robert Callon, Milford. After Sally, Thorndick Deland, Salem.

#### CLEARED.

Ship Britannia, John Watson, Cork. Ship Hibernia, Thomas Morrison, Londonderry. Schooner Nancy, William Jones, St. Croix. Schooner Polly, Reuben Hawes, Figuera. Sloop Jenny, Timothy Jarvis, North-Carolina.

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